

REMARKS

The rejection of Claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over, U.S. 6,207,728 B1 (Sekiguchi et al), is respectfully traversed. The only disclosure in Sekiguchi et al with regard to particle size is a so-called sixth embodiment therein, wherein the average particle diameter of silica particles is disclosed in a photo-curable composition comprising other components. There is no disclosure of particle sizes with regard to the composition as a whole.

On the contrary, particle size is important for the present invention. For release films in the production of ceramic condensers, for example, well-balanced smoothness and a low coefficient of friction are required. The conventional method used for lowering the friction coefficient is to use fine particles. However, the decreased thickness of ceramic condenser layers requires a smoother release film. The present invention solves this problem by using polymer component (A) for promoting flexibility of the release film, and component (B) for promoting surface hardness, and by the particle size limitations of Claim 1, for promoting smoothness and storage stability, the latter as described in the specification at page 57, lines 16-23. On the other hand, a conventional release film such as a polydimethylsiloxane-based film is rather soft and tacky and particles such as silica or clay are necessary to be added. In the present invention, a smooth, hard surface and non-tacky film is achieved by the cross-linking polymerization of the composition.

Notwithstanding the above differences, the present assignee and the assignee of Sekiguchi et al are the same. At the time the presently-claimed invention was made, Sekiguchi et al and the presently-claimed invention were commonly owned. Therefore, Sekiguchi et al is otherwise removed as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 103(c).

For all the above reasons, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4-12 and 14-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over, JP 2000-191977 (Shimada et al), is respectfully traversed. All the presently pending claims contain the limitations of Claim 3, not subject to this rejection. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that it be withdrawn.

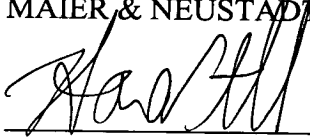
The rejection of Claims 1, 2 and 7-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over, U.S. 6,051,665 (Yamada et al), is respectfully traversed. All the presently pending claims contain the limitations of Claim 3, not subject to this rejection. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that it be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully traversed. Indeed, the rejection is now moot in view of the above-discussed amendment. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that it be withdrawn.

All of the presently pending claims in this application are now believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Norman F. Oblon
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 24,618

Harris A. Pitlick
Registration No. 38,779

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/03)
NFO/HAP/cja